## Contents

	Acknowledgments XI
	Prologue xv
1	Nomad Protagonists 1
	The Nomadic Alternative 5
	The Mobile State 10
	Reconfiguring the Narrative 17
2	Kingdoms of Those Who Draw the Bow 25
	A Matrix of Steppe Worlds 27
	Nomads of the Steppe Heartland 31
	Herders of the Corridors and Oases 34
	Herders and Hunters of the Far North 37
	Kingdom of the High Mountains 38
	Herders Between the Steppe and the Sown 46
	Inner Asian Innovations 50
3	Masters of the Steppe 52
	The New Order 53
	Noble Nomads 56
	Under Xiongnu Reins 58
	All Are Xiongnu 62
	Foddering the Regime 66

```
viii Contents
```

	Livestock and Labor 67
	Crops and Ores 69
	Furs and Silks 71
	The Spoils of Conquest 72
4	Rule by the Horse 74
	Institutions of the Empire 77
	Regulations and Accounts 80
	Ceremonies and Customs 83
	Beastly Badges 86
	Body of the Empire 89
	Local Communities 96
	Regional Hierarchies 100
	Supraregional Polity 103
	Arms of the Empire 108
	Ventures Left and Right 109
	Enterprises of Interregional Exploitation 115
	Harnessing Eurasia 122
5	Of Wolves and Sheep 124
	Empires in Arms 126
	The Militant Emperor 127
	The Great Game 136
	Five Baits for the Nomads 145
	Other Kings and Other Kingdoms 148
	Culling the Herds 153
	The Five Chanyus 155
6	Masters of the Continental Worlds 162
	On the Global Stage 165
	Great Reformations 167
	Reigning Supreme 173
	Global Political Culture 184
	Communities of the Empire 190

	Local Nodes 192	
	Regional Networks 197	
	The Western Frontier 200	
	The Imperial Matrix 207	
	The Resilient Regime 213	
	The Scattering of Sheep 218	
7	Hunnic Heritage 220	
	After the Fall 223	
	What's in a Name 228	
	A Whole New World 232	
	Pacifying the Barbarians 238	
	Epilogue 241	
	Appendix (Chanyu Rulers) 245	
	Notes 247 References 303	
	Index (with Chinese Characters)	355